

he found there. The number of 'island races' described from the Canaries is considerable and our author is thoroughly up to date in his recognition of them and in his use of trinomials in their designation.— W. S.

The New Nature Library.¹— It seems but a few years ago that the only popular works on general natural history were those of Rev. J. G. Wood and a few others who wrote from a British standpoint and who had but little to say of American species. The publication of a Nature Library, exclusively American, was therefore an exceedingly happy idea. The volumes constituting the original library are familiar to a large number of nature lovers, and ornithologists who, to be good ornithologists, should know something of the other classes of animals as well as of plants, have found them a valuable series of reference volumes. The new thin paper edition reduces the bulk of the set about one half and makes them handier for consultation. It is to be regretted that in getting out a new edition the groups overlooked in the previous one could not have been included — the salamanders for instance among the vertebrates, and the beetles among the insects, as well as the whole series of lower marine invertebrates. Had the molluses been restricted to North American species as was done in all other groups these might easily have been added without much increase in bulk. However the volumes will guide many a student and answer many a question for the amateur for years to come.— W. S.

Recent Publications on Economic Ornithology.— Two recent bulletins of the U. S. Department of Agriculture deal with birds. 'Five Important Wild-Duck Foods' by W. L. McAtee² is published in response to a demand for a similar publication which appeared some time ago. In these days of bird refuges and sanctuaries it is important to know what to plant in order to furnish food for birds of all kinds. In this paper the 'Delta Duck Potato' and 'Wapato' both species of *Sagittaria*, the 'Chufa,' *Cyperus esculentus*, 'Wild Millet' *Echinochloa crus-galli* and the 'Banana Water Lily' *Nymphaea mexicana* are discussed. 'Birds in Relation to the Alfalfa Weevil' By E. R. Kalmbach³ will be of value to all growers of forage plants. While at present restricted to northern Utah the pest is spreading and it is well to remember the part birds play in its destruction and also to know that young chickens and turkeys are an excellent check to the weevils if allowed to feed in infested fields.

Mr. H. P. Attwater⁴ has compiled an excellent Bulletin for the Texas Department of Agriculture entitled 'Use and Value of Wild Birds to Texas

¹ The New Nature Library. Vols. I-VIII. Doubleday Page and Co. New York. Cloth. \$31.50.

² Five Important Wild-Duck Foods. By W. L. McAtee. Bulletin 58, U. S. Dept. Agr., pp. 1-19. Feb. 7, 1914. Price, cts.

³ Birds in Relation to the Alfalfa Weevil. By E. R. Kalmbach. 107, Bull. U. S. Dept. Agr., July 27, 1914, pp. 1-64.

⁴ Use and Value of Wild Birds to Texas Farmers and Stockmen and Fruit and Truck Growers. Compiled by H. P. Attwater. 1914. Bull. No. 37, Texas Dept. of Agr., pp. 1-61. Distributed by the Commission of Agriculture, Austin, Tex.

Farmers and Stockmen and Fruit and Truck Growers.' The text consists largely of well selected extracts from standard publications and addresses by the compiler and others. The bulletin will do a great good, reaching as it will many people in this vast state who do not see the economic publications of the National Government.

In this connection mention should also be made of Mr. Shiras' able publication on the 'Necessity for, and Constitutionality of the Migratory Bird Law.'¹ The whole subject is thoroughly discussed and attacks upon the law ably answered. Mr. Shiras was the author of the original bills that were presented to Congress and is therefore particularly well qualified to discuss the subject.—W. S.

Further Observations by Collinge on the Dispersal of Weed Seeds by Birds.—Prof. W. E. Collinge has continued his studies of the viability of weed seeds after passing through the alimentary canals of birds. The general results given in the present brief report² agree with those previously announced, namely, that a surprisingly large number of seeds do pass through the alimentary tracts of seed-eating birds in condition to germinate.

The special point made in the present paper, and a novel one it is, is succinctly stated in the following quotation: "it would appear that, in dry years, such birds as the rook, starling, house sparrow (and probably many other species) take in a much smaller quantity of grit and soil than in wet years, in consequence of which a larger percentage of weed seeds pass through the intestinal canal in an uninjured condition."—W. L. M.

Herman on Useful and Harmful Birds.—It is a proof of the great demand in European countries for a book on economic ornithology, as well as a tribute to Dr. Otto Herman, that his work (originally in Hungarian) has been translated into both German³ and English.⁴ The artist M. Titus Csörgey shares the honors as his spirited drawings illustrate all of the editions. Both of the translations contain additional figures and the text has in greater or less degree been adapted to local conditions. The English edition especially has thus been augmented, and properly is published as a collaborated work: authors, Otto Herman and J. A. Owen. While these books are fairly satisfactory manuals of European economic ornithology, they lack the definiteness and scientific detail that characterize American publications of a similar nature. This is merely a matter of style, however, as the basis of all of these books is the investigations of the Royal Hungarian Central Bureau of Ornithology which have included the examination of thousands of bird stomachs.—W. L. M.

¹ Necessity for and Constitutionality of the Act of Congress Protecting Migratory Birds. By George Shiras, 3d, pp. 1-99.

² Journ. Economic Biol. IX, No. 2, June, 1914, pp. 69-71.

³ Nutzen und Schaden der Vögel. Gera. 1903, 333 pp. 95 pls.

⁴ Birds useful and birds harmful. Manchester, 1909, 387 pp., 98 pls.